

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 98-706

September 25, 1998

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
System Expansion Reporting
for Authorized Natural Gas
Local Distribution Utilities

ORDER DESCRIBING
LDC SYSTEM EXPANSION
REPORTING

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT, Commissioner

I. Summary

We require all natural gas utilities proposing to provide local distribution services in Maine to report to us all system expansions as specified herein.

II. Background

In our Order dated August 17, 1998 in Central Maine Power Company, Petition for Approval to furnish Gas Service In and To Areas Not Currently Receiving Natural Gas, Docket No. 96-786, we stated that all authorized natural gas local distribution utilities (LDCs)¹ will be required to report on their system expansion progress every six months, beginning October 1, 1998 to allow the Commission to monitor competing utilities' progress and to detect unforeseen problems.

By this Order, we notify all authorized LDCs to file reports and describe the information to be included in the reports.

III. Reports

Except for the initial filing which will be due **October 15, 1998**,² all authorized LDCs shall report on October 1 and April 1 of each year, on its then completed and anticipated system development activities to occur within the following year. To the extent the information is readily available, the report should include: a description of the areas into which the LDC expects to expand, confirmed and anticipated customer loads for each area; general system design and construction schedule. The

¹ These currently include: Mid Maine Gas Utilities, Inc., Bangor Gas Company, L.L.C., Northern Utilities, Inc., and CMP Natural Gas.

² We have extended the filing date for the initial report to allow utilities adequate time to prepare the filing as specified herein.

report should outline any obstacles or concerns regarding the expansion, and alert the Commission to any local or financial impacts or problems that exist as a result of the regulatory policy to allow LDC service territory competition.

All such reports shall be treated confidentially pursuant to the attached Protective Order. Because of the sensitive, competitive nature of this information, reports will be available only to the Commission, its staff and consultants, as well as to the Office of the Public Advocate, its staff and consultants, unless the LDC indicates that confidential treatment of its report or portions of its report is not necessary or other adequate basis is provided to justify its release.³

All reports shall reference this docket and shall be filed with the Administrative Director with seven copies. A copy shall also be provided to the Office of the Public Advocate.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 25th day of September, 1998.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING: Welsh
 Nugent

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DESIGNATED FOR PUBLICATION

³ The Commission would establish a procedure that provides a reasonable opportunity to consider the views of all stakeholders.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of adjudicatory proceedings are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 6(N) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.11) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which consideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320 (1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73 et seq.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320 (5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.